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SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION MAR 6-8: STATE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, GME, IRAQ.

[1](#)1. SUMMARY: Several Kuwaiti editorialists blame Mossad for "masterminding" the recent explosions in Karbala and Baghdad, while a Shiite professor at the University of Kuwait says the attacks are the fruit of US policies of "pure evil" foisted on the Arab world by America--"truly the Great Satan."

The Greater Middle East Initiative (GME) receives acclaim from Kuwaiti liberals urging their government to implement meaningful reform, while former Kuwaiti MP Dr. Abdel Muhsin Jamal mocks the State Department's annual Human Rights Report as a sham designed to pressure Muslim leaders and governments for self-serving political purposes. End summary.

[1](#)2. "Hilarious Reports"

Former MP Dr. Abdel Muhsin Jamal wrote in independent Al-Qabas (3/06): "I laughed hard reading the State Department's annual country reports on human rights practices. These American reports no longer hold any credibility. They are purely political reports that exploit the principles of human rights in order to attack and extort our Muslim leaders, governments, and peoples. It is America who needs to be taught to respect human rights, and to respect other nations before preaching advice to others."

[1](#)3. "The Gulf States and the GMEI"

Dr. Shamlan Al-Issa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (3/08): "Why have Arab countries delayed reforms? The Gulf States received the GME with mixed feelings, but expressed desire for reforms albeit with slow and gradual process. Procrastinating on reform issues will not help the Arab regimes. By continuing with the status quo, and citing instability as a reason not to change, the Gulf States are collectively confirming their apprehension of reforms. If the Gulf leaders fail to take courageous initiatives toward reforms, then, change will be imposed from the outside."

[1](#)4. "Yes To The American Initiative (GME)"

Fuad Al-Hashem wrote in independent Al-Watan (3/06): "I fully support the Greater Middle East Initiative. "Waiting" for reforms to occur from within, a feat favored by most Arab leaders, is a waste of valuable time. If we wait, reforms from within will probably take place during the fifth millennium. By then, there would be ten thousand Mohammed Attas and half a million Ben Ladens. It took one Ben Laden and one Mohammed Atta to wreak such devastation--imagine what could happen if we got saddled with millions of them."

[1](#)5. "To Dream or Learn?"

Salah Al-Sayer wrote in independent Al-Anba (3/06): "The GME stipulates that the West help the countries of the region establish civic societies, and to assist in reforming the judicial system. Developed states would pledge to provide technical assistance to register voters, strengthen electoral committees, and establish training centers targeted to teach women to participate in civic life. These same industrial countries would utilize their considerable expertise to help reform the region's financial institutions. In other words, the enemy of the Arab nation will do for it what its heroes never did."

[1](#)6. "American Muscle"

Adnan Al-Kazemi wrote in independent Al-Watan (3/07): "President Bush's GME was received with mixed feelings by the whole region. Nonetheless, the GME is badly sought in both the Arab and Islamic worlds, because the needs for reforms are crucial. However, we would have preferred for the initiative to focus on reaching a negotiated settlement for the chronic Palestinian problem. Despite our complete conviction of the need for reforms, we should not be subjected to pressure. Achieving reforms is a shared goal by the whole region, and displaying American muscle in this regard is needless."

[1](#)7. "Who is the Target Behind the Karbala Bombings"

Issam Al-Fulaij wrote in independent Al-Watan (3/07): "Be it between Sunnis and Shiites, Sunni groups, or between different Shiite clerical bodies, Zionist and Jewish powers are always trying to cause permanent unrest in the Islamic world. The perpetrators behind the Karbala bombings are the Jews and global Zionism. All Muslims must take caution. Whether you are Sunnis or Shiite, you are not targeted for your religious sects but for being Muslims."

18. "Who Benefits From Stirring Unrest"

Dr. Ayed Al-Mana wrote in independent Al-Watan (3/06): "Should we rule out foreign intelligence agencies, particularly the Zionists, for responsibility for masterminding the Baghdad and Karbala incidents? One possibility is Mossad. Zionists believe that destroying an Arab country such as Iraq is an opportunity that should not be missed. Creating unrest in Iraq would mean different Iraqi groups would fight amongst themselves, eventually ending up with the partition of Iraq along sectarian lines. So who are the masterminds running the battle? Who is controlling the battle by remote control."

19. "The Great Satan"

Kuwait University Professor Dr. Hassan Abbas wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-A'am (3/08): "The United States is truly the 'Great Satan'. Every new political scheme offered to us by the United States is pure evil. I am not an advocate of the conspiracy theory, but the recent and bloody explosions in Karbala and Kazimiya are the results of American policies. The region has been beset by successive policies that brought only harm."

10. "We Shall Ruin Your Plans"

Adel Behbehani wrote in independent Al-Anba (3/07): "The plans of the instigators behind the latest bombings in Karbala and Kazimiya are doomed to failure. Neither Shiites nor Sunnis will allow sectarian unrest to befall Iraq. The answer to these terrorist acts is to reinforce National unity amongst the two main Islamic sects. Another solution would be to expose plans and plots concocted by anti-Islam intelligence agencies such as the Mossad. We cannot rule out the possibility that Mossad is involved, and is seeking to create unrest between different sects in Iraq in order to justify long term foreign presence in Iraq."

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